

TO PROBE CRUELTY CHARGES

GOV. HASKELL NAMES
COMMITTEE ON KANSAS
PRISON INVESTIGATION

KANSAS AUTHORITIES
COURT THOROUGH QUIZ

Sensational Report of Okla-
homa's Woman Official
Starts Teapot Tempest

Responding to the invitation of Governor Hoch, of Kansas, Governor Haskell last evening appointed a committee of five Oklahomans to act with a committee in Kansas to meet January 10 for the purpose of investigating the conditions of the Kansas penitentiary and the charges made by Miss Kate Barnard, state commissioner of charities of cruel punishment of convicts by the prison authorities, Oklahoma Committee.

The following is the telegram sent by Governor Haskell last evening to Governor Hoch announcing the names of the Oklahoma committee:

Governor K. W. Hoch, Topeka, Kansas. Have appointed on committee following gentlemen: J. P. Connors, president State Board Agriculture, Senator P. J. Gauding, of Enid; Honorable J. F. Kline, of Newkirk; Honorable W. H. Murray, ex-president Constitutional convention, Tahlequah; George E. Quinn, Miss superintendent of Savannah. Am forwarding you copy report state charities commission.

C. N. HASKELL, Governor.

The letter received from Governor Hoch by Governor Haskell requesting the latter to appoint a committee of Oklahomans to take immediate action in investigating the Lansing penitentiary reads:

"Hon. C. N. Haskell, governor of Oklahoma.

"On the 10th of last September I addressed you a letter concerning some charges made through Oklahoma newspapers by Miss Kate Barnard, prison inspector of your state, with reference to the sanitary condition of the Lansing penitentiary, and to the treatment of prisoners there. I suggested in that letter that it would give me great pleasure to unite with you in appointing a joint committee of prominent citizens from the two states to investigate these charges. I stated in my letter the belief that your penitentiary was one of the best managed institutions of the kind in the United States and that Warden Haskell, in my judgment had few superiors. I still adhere to this belief. I have talked to scores of prisoners and ex-prisoners and have yet to hear a single complaint from any of them against Warden Haskell. Sensational charges were made somewhat similar to those made by Miss Barnard, by a discharged employee while the last legislature was in session. Warden Haskell, who was also a member of the state senate, promptly rose in his seat and demanded a legislative investigation, which was made and the charges were ridiculous.

"Frequent examinations of this institution have been made by members of our state board of health and their reports have always been favorable.

But the official relation of Miss Barnard to your state and to this institution, owing to the fact that Oklahoma has more than half as many prisoners in our institution, as has Kansas, renders another investigation seemingly necessary. I desire that it shall be thorough and complete and that it shall forever settle the question as to the condition and management of the Kansas penitentiary.

"I am informed that Miss Barnard has filed formal charges on the subject with you, and in behalf of Warden Haskell, and in behalf of the state administration, I ask you to appoint a committee of five to join with a similar number of gentlemen that I have selected to make this investigation and make it immediately. I go out of office on the 11th of next January and I am exceedingly anxious to have this matter disposed of before that time.

"I have not seen the official report of Miss Barnard, and hence am not familiar with the exact charges she makes, but it is Warden Haskell's desire as well as mine, that there be a thorough investigation of the sanitary condition of the penitentiary, the mores of punishment, the daily diet and all matters pertaining to discipline, general care of prisoners, and everything connected with the management of the institution.

"These charges have been widely published and it is due to Warden Haskell and to the state of Kansas that they be investigated. I have already asked the following five gentlemen to make this investigation in behalf of the state of Kansas: Prof. P. W. Blackman, of the chair of sociology and economics at the State University; Hon. E. D. Coburn, secretary of the state board of agriculture; Dr. S. J. Cronkhite, secretary of the state board of health; Dr. Charles M. Sheldon, author and broadcaster; and Hon. Frank Gillray, state mine inspector. I hope there may be no delay in this matter and that the earliest date possible may be set for this investigation.

"I wish you would kindly have sent to me at once a copy of the charges made by Miss Barnard.

"Hoping to hear from you immediately, I am, E. W. Hoch."

Miss Kate Barnard, commissioner of charities, claims to have a complete chain of evidence of the destruction of the "crib" and "water cure" tokens at the Lansing prison since Miss Barnard's report was made public.

Miss Barnard was preparing to give out a statement when Governor Hoch requested the appointment of an Oklahoma committee. This evidence will be presented at the joint committee investigation.

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A NEGRO IS FISTC CHAMPION

FIRST OF RACE TO WIN
HEAVYWEIGHT SLUG-
GING HONORS

DEFEATED CANADIAN
AFTER FOURTEEN ROUNDS

"Canuck" Completely Outclassed
By Husky Colored Gent
From Texas

(By Associated Press.)

Sydney, N. S. W., Dec. 25.—Jack Johnson, the big negro from Galveston, Texas, is the world's heavy-weight champion pugilist. He won the title today in the big arena at Roebuck's day from Tommy Burns, the "French-Canadian" who had held it since James J. Jeffries relinquished it after a chase of Burns that led him to Australia.

The end came in the fourteenth round when the police, seeing Burns tottering and unable to defend himself from the savage blows of his opponent, mercifully stopped the fight. Previously it had been arranged that if the police interfered a decision should be rendered on points and scores. McIntosh declared the big black man the winner, for all through the fight he had shown himself Burns' master in every style of fighting.

Burns, in an interview after he had come to his dressing room, said:

"I did the best I could and fought hard. Johnson was too big and his reach was too great."

Jackson Johnson is the first negro who ever won the world's heavy-weight pugilistic championship. In fact, he is the only negro who ever was permitted to battle for the honor.

He was born in Galveston, Texas, in 1878 and began his ring career in 1901. He is six feet, 3 1/2 inches in height and weighed at the ringside 190 pounds.

Burns was born in Vancouver, Ontario, in 1881, and started fighting when he was 19 years old. He is five feet, 7 1/2 inches in height and weighs 175 pounds.

Burns always was a rough and ready fighter, who delighted to sail in and six things with his adversary. Favored with great length of arm—his reach measuring 74 1/2 inches—Burns proved himself a bad man at close range. Despite the fact that Johnson overtopped him in height by 12 inches, Burns had the better of the argument in reach by 1 3/4 inches.

A purse of \$25,000 was hung up for the battle, which was scheduled to go twenty rounds. Of this amount Burns was to receive \$5,000, and Johnson was to be paid to him twenty-five per cent of the net receipts. The outcome of the fight, Johnson had a net receipt of \$5,000, and returned tickets to London for himself and his manager, Sam Fitzpatrick.

According to reports both Johnson and Burns had heavily on themselves the prevailing odds, which slightly favored Burns at the ringside. The fighters were trained to the hour and fought before what probably was the biggest crowd that ever witnessed a pugilistic contest. Burns did his training at Darling Point, while Johnson or in condition at Manly, a seaside suburb. Besides a routine of skillful training which gave the men daily "races" at the game of hit, stop and retreat, both Burns and Johnson followed American training methods by doing hard road work. Each man took up a lot of loose change by giving training exhibitions twice a week at the stadium.

Since James J. Jeffries retired and Tommy Burns claimed the championship Johnson has been trying to get the Canadian boy to meet him, and he has trailed him throughout the United States and even to England in quest of a match. It was not until McIntosh, the promoter of this fight, and who also acted as referee, offered a purse of \$5,000 for a battle at Roebuck's Bay, a suburb of Sydney, that Burns consented to meet Johnson. Then he stipulated how the money should be split up, the size of the ring and all the conditions surrounding the fight. Johnson immediately accepted and sailed from London for Australia to begin training.

Johnson, during his ring career, has fought forty-four battles, and twenty-two of his opponents have gone down in defeat by the knockout, route. McIntosh of those who have been put to sleep by the big black arm. Jack Jeffries, a brother of the former heavy-weight champion, who was knocked out by Johnson at Los Angeles in 1902 in five rounds, and Bob Fitzsimmons, who in Philadelphia in 1907 was used by the authorities to fight a thirty-four round fight, and twenty-two of his opponents have gone down in defeat by the knockout, route. McIntosh of those who have been put to sleep by the big black arm. Jack Jeffries, a brother of the former heavy-weight champion, who was knocked out by Johnson at Los Angeles in 1902 in five rounds, and Bob Fitzsimmons, who in Philadelphia in 1907 was used by the authorities to fight a thirty-four round fight, and twenty-two of his opponents have gone down in defeat by the knockout, route.

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See other on a front to Joe Jeanette.

Not since the days of James J. Corbett has the prize ring seen so perfect a boxer as Johnson. Long and lithe, he is as graceful as a dancing master and as true as an arrow in placing his blows. Especially soft is he with his left hand and few boxers unless they have great skill are able to keep the big black man from beating their faces to lathers.

In courage, Burns was a bulldog always; Johnson, it was said by some, had a "yellow streak." In none of his many battles, however, has it been proven that Johnson would not take a good beating. Neither Burns nor Johnson, however, have been considered men of the stamp of Jeffries, Sullivan or Corbett in the fighting game.

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Children overdoing Christmas celebration were the cause of a barn burning in West Guthrie yesterday afternoon. The children had been using Fourth of July torpedoes and after running out of caps used parlor matches which ignited some loose hay in the barn. The fire quickly spread and at 1:55 Truck No. 2 answered an alarm from the residence of J. S. Wilson, 1105 West Washington avenue, upon whose property the barn was situated. The barn was a total loss and a barn on the adjoining property owned by G. W. Randall was damaged to the extent of \$25. The total loss incurred was \$125.

Thursday night Truck No. 1 was called to 217 South First street where a same mysterious manner the clothing of one of the lodgers in the rooming house at that number, had become ignited, filling the house with smoke. A man occupying the adjoining room, who gave the alarm stated, "but a short time before he was awakened by the smoke he heard some men in the hallway and one attempted to come into his room, but the door was locked. The man whose clothing was found in flames was robbed of \$2.50 during the riot and the firemen believe that a match dropped by the thief caused the trouble.

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JUMPS ON EXCESSIVE TAX LEVY

GOV. HASKELL DECLARES
THAT LAW MUST BE
FOLLOWED

FOLLOW-UP LETTER
TO COUNTY ATTORNEYS

There's a Tax Limit in Okla-
homa and Haskell Proposes
to See It Enforced

In pursuance of his expressed determination as the state's chief executive to see that taxes are kept within the closest possible bounds Governor Haskell has issued a third letter, this time addressed to county attorneys, concerning excess taxes. In the letter the governor reiterates his purpose to see that tax levies are kept within the constitutional limit, and declares that if necessary he will invoke the aid of the attorney general of the state in enforcing the law. The letter follows:

"On the 11th day of December, after having had a multitude of complaints from a large majority of the counties in the state on the question of excessive taxes, I issued a general letter through the county clerks, to them be county attorneys, and the county commissioners, urging an immediate investigation in their respective counties to ascertain whether or not their county was one wherein excessive tax levies for county, town or district purposes had been made.

"Later on December 19 I issued a second general letter to the county clerks, calling for lists of county, town and district levies.

"I am sure that you will agree with me that the question of taxation is one of vital interest to the people, and it is not surprising that in this first year of statehood the machinery of government, both state and local should not run with the smoothness and precision that it will after a few years of legislation and official familiarity with our laws.

"In most of these cases you will find that the taxes are excessive. They must be reduced regardless of the fact that it will make additional work for the public officials who make and keep the records. I may add that it takes additional work for you and a great volume of additional work for me, but we, like the county clerks and treasurers, must not hesitate to correct or correct excess tax levies simply because of a great burden of work on us. The people are entitled to have their government conducted on the lowest possible basis and out of taxation.

"With two-thirds of the county levies now before me, the attorney general and myself have fully conferred on all these matters, and are both ready and willing to render you an assistance desired, as it is first your privilege, as well as duty, to correct these burdensome conditions wherever they exist, and we consider that there are three main points to be looked into:

"Is the tax levy within the specific limitation in the constitution?

"If there is an excess in the levy, is a special levy passed upon a vote of the local people as authorized by the constitution and laws, was that election in each instance one that was authorized and was it legally held?

"The levy may be within the limitation prescribed in the constitution, and yet be excessive and unauthorized. If it produces a greater amount of money than reasonable economic government requires.

"The above applies to the township, the school district, the incorporated town, and the county all of which we ask you to look into immediately, covering all three propositions.

"To illustrate: I have one complaint before me now from Jackson county, where the county levy for the poor and insane fund amounts to \$5,000. Last year's collections under this same head was very much less than this amount, and fully half of the levy is on hand to be carried over in cash as credit to this fund for the ensuing year.

"The question naturally arises in the mind of the taxpayer why this \$5,000 is assessed against them.

"Complaint is before me that in Oklahoma county, the county board are contracting on the rental plan for a year, it is to cost substantially \$15,000. Personally I have not investigated this complaint, as it was just received this morning, and I can not believe that the board of county commissioners of a new county, with such

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"If there is an excess in the levy, is a special levy passed upon a vote of the local people as authorized by the constitution and laws, was that election in each instance one that was authorized and was it legally held?

"The levy may be within the limitation prescribed in the constitution, and yet be excessive and unauthorized. If it produces a greater amount of money than reasonable economic government requires.

"The above applies to the township, the school district, the incorporated town, and the county all of which we ask you to look into immediately, covering all three propositions.

"To illustrate: I have one complaint before me now from Jackson county, where the county levy for the poor and insane fund amounts to \$5,000. Last year's collections under this same head was very much less than this amount, and fully half of the levy is on hand to be carried over in cash as credit to this fund for the ensuing year.

"The question naturally arises in the mind of the taxpayer why this \$5,000 is assessed against them.

"Complaint is before me that in Oklahoma county, the county board are contracting on the rental plan for a year, it is to cost substantially \$15,000. Personally I have not investigated this complaint, as it was just received this morning, and I can not believe that the board of county commissioners of a new county, with such

In pursuance of his expressed determination as the state's chief executive to see that taxes are kept within the closest possible bounds Governor Haskell has issued a third letter, this time addressed to county attorneys, concerning excess taxes. In the letter the governor reiterates his purpose to see that tax levies are kept within the constitutional limit, and declares that if necessary he will invoke the aid of the attorney general of the state in enforcing the law. The letter follows:

"On the 11th day of December, after having had a multitude of complaints from a large majority of the counties in the state on the question of excessive taxes, I issued a general letter through the county clerks, to them be county attorneys, and the county commissioners, urging an immediate investigation in their respective counties to ascertain whether or not their county was one wherein excessive tax levies for county, town or district purposes had been made.

"Later on December 19 I issued a second general letter to the county clerks, calling for lists of county, town and district levies.

"I am sure that you will agree with me that the question of taxation is one of vital interest to the people, and it is not surprising that in this first year of statehood the machinery of government, both state and local should not run with the smoothness and precision that it will after a few years of legislation and official familiarity with our laws.

"In most of these cases you will find that the taxes are excessive. They must be reduced regardless of the fact that it will make additional work for the public officials who make and keep the records. I may add that it takes additional work for you and a great volume of additional work for me, but we, like the county clerks and treasurers, must not hesitate to correct or correct excess tax levies simply because of a great burden of work on us. The people are entitled to have their government conducted on the lowest possible basis and out of taxation.

"With two-thirds of the county levies now before me, the attorney general and myself have fully conferred on all these matters, and are both ready and willing to render you an assistance desired, as it is first your privilege, as well as duty, to correct these burdensome conditions wherever they exist, and we consider that there are three main points to be looked into:

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A small amount of taxable property as Oklahoma county, would contemplate for a moment the building of a court house to cost such a sum of money, when we all know that Oklahoma county in its new condition, where its taxpayers are struggling to build their homes, certainly can not afford to engage in any such reckless practices. The complaint states that there are not 20 men in the county who would vote for such a court house. Of course, if the people have a chance to vote upon such proposition, then they adopt their own policy to suit themselves, and public officials have the direct orders of the people of their county to back them, but until the people do vote, we respectfully call your attention to section 1423, Wilson's Statutes of Oklahoma, which authorizes you to appeal from an order made by the county board, and also authorizes taxpayers to appeal under the provisions laid down in said section; but no doubt the taxpayers as a rule rely largely on the extensive powers vested in the county attorney.

"I shall hope to hear from Oklahoma county that there is some mistake in the complaint filed with me as to the action of its board of county commissioners. I shall also hope to hear from the county attorneys in each new county that no such extravagances in public buildings is contemplated for one moment without a proper election at which the people authorize the same by their votes.

"If there is any reason why you can not give the above tax matters your immediate careful consideration, kindly advise me, and I will present your reply to the attorney general.

"Where the tax levies are above the constitutional limitations, and where they are in excess of the reasonable necessities, they must be reduced with out delay.

"In case the time for appeal from the action of the board is passed, we then call your attention to the action provided for in section 1440, Wilson's Statutes of Oklahoma."

J. E. Woodworth, statistical clerk of the state board of agriculture, is spending Christmas week with his parents in Perry.

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